

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The cosmetic topical formulation of this invention is directed toward diminishing skin wrinkling, fine line, improving skin tone, and combinations thereof. Preferably, the  
5 topical formulation contains a matrix metalloproteinase inhibitor, MMPI, and advantageously includes a natural estrogen, e.g., a true estrogen compound, such as 17-beta estradiol, or an estrogen-like steroid, (such as various phytoestrogens found in herbal preparations), as opposed to a synthetic estrogen. Other forms of the cosmetic topical formulation of this invention include combinations of synthetic estrogen and MMP  
10 inhibitor. Exemplary synthetic estrogens include, but are not limited to, ethinyl estradiol and clomiphene citrate. The cosmetic topical formulation is safe and effective diminishing wrinkling, and improving skin tone. Certain compositions of this invention are useful for minimizing photodamage to skin, while in other embodiments, the composition according to this invention is useful to prevent or minimize the adverse  
15 effects on skin induced by cigarette smoking.